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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE: CATHODE RAY TUBE (CRT)) MDL No. 1917
ANTITRUST LITIGATION)
) Case No. C-07-5944-SC
-----)
This Order Relates To:) ORDER APPOINTING SPECIAL
) MASTER FOR DISCOVERY
-----)
ALL CASES)
-----)

The Court has suggested the appointment of the Honorable Vaughn Walker (Ret.) as discovery master for this case per Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53(a) and (b). The Court asked the parties to submit objections to or statements in support of this appointment. All parties consent. ECF Nos. 2204, 2205. The Court finds that consideration of fairness, the prevention of undue delay and the amount of judicial resources expended adjudicating discovery disputes in this case constitute "exceptional circumstances" which require the appointment of a special master to oversee discovery. See Harmston v. City & Cnty. of S.F., No. 07-01186 SI, 2007 WL 3306526, *9 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 6, 2007); Nat'l Ass'n of Radiation Survivors v. Turnage, 115 F.R.D. 543, 560 (N.D. Cal. 1987).

1 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
2 Procedure 53, Hon. Vaughn Walker (Ret.) is appointed as Special
3 Master to supervise and preside over all discovery in this case.
4 The Special Master has filed a declaration under 28 U.S.C. § 455
5 stating that there is no ground for disqualification.

6

7 1. Scope of Duties: The Special Master shall adjudicate all
8 pretrial discovery disputes in this case, including
9 disputes arising during the course of depositions. This
10 Order shall apply to all cases currently pending in MDL No.
11 1917 and to all related actions that have been or will be
12 originally filed in, transferred to, or removed to this
13 Court and assigned thereto (collectively, "the MDL
14 proceedings"). This Order is binding on all parties and
15 their counsel in all cases currently pending or
16 subsequently made part of these proceedings and shall
17 govern each case in the proceedings unless it explicitly
18 states that it relates to specific cases.

19 2. Scope of Authority: The Special Master shall have all the
20 authority provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
21 53(c), including, but not limited to, the authority to set
22 the date, time, and place for all hearings determined by
23 the Special Master to be necessary; to direct the issuance
24 of subpoenas; to make rulings on objections or otherwise
25 resolve disputes arising during the course of depositions;
26 to preside over hearings (whether telephonic or in-person);
27 to take evidence in connection with discovery disputes; to
28 award fee allocations and non-contempt sanctions provided

1 by Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 37 and 45; and to
2 recommend contempt sanctions. Any motion pursuant to
3 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37 or Civil Local Rule 37-1
4 for sanctions for violations of the Special Master's orders
5 shall be decided by the Special Master.

6. Procedures for Briefing Submitted to Special Master: The
7 Special Master may resolve disputes presented orally, in
8 person or by telephone, in a letter brief, or in formal
9 motions. In the case of discovery disputes that are to be
10 resolved by letter brief or written motions, all papers
11 will be submitted directly to the Special Master by email
12 with a courtesy copy by United States Mail or overnight
13 courier, as directed by the Special Master. Briefing
14 schedules will be determined by the Special Master.

15. Meet and Confer Required: In the event of a discovery
16 dispute, the parties shall first meet and confer in good
17 faith to attempt to resolve the dispute. In the event the
18 parties are not able to reach an agreement, the dispute
19 will be resolved by the Special Master. The Special Master
20 shall devise procedures for the parties to follow in
21 seeking his intervention.

22. Preservation of Record: Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
23 Procedure 53(b)(2)(c), the Special Master shall maintain
24 files consisting of all documents submitted by the parties
25 and any written orders, findings, and/or recommendations.
26 Any order issued by the Special Master shall be emailed to
27 the parties. Such emailing shall fulfill the Special
28 Master's duty to serve the order on the parties. In

addition, any order issued by the Special Master shall be filed with the Court via Electronic Case Filing (ECF) in a notice of ruling by the moving party. Any records of the Special Master's activities other than written orders, findings, and/or recommendations shall be filed in accordance with paragraph 6(a) of this Order.

6. Action on Special Master's Orders, Reports, or Recommendations:

- a. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53(b)(2)(D), the procedure described in paragraphs 6(b) and 6(c) herein shall govern any action on the Special Master's orders, reports and/or recommendations.
- b. Time Limits for Review. Any party wishing to file objections to the Special Master's orders, reports and/or recommendations must file such objection with the Court within fourteen (14) days from the day the Special Master's order, report and/or recommendation is filed. Review of the Special Master's orders will be subject to the same procedures as review of orders of a Magistrate Judge, except as otherwise provided herein. See Civ. L.R. 72-2.
- c. Filing the Record for Review. The party filing the objection shall submit with such objection any record necessary for the Court to review the Special Master's order, report, and/or recommendation, including any transcripts of proceedings before the Special Master and any documents submitted by the parties in

1 connection with the Special Master's order, report,
2 and/or recommendation. Failure to provide the record
3 shall constitute grounds for the Court to overrule the
4 objection or deny the motion.

5. Ex Parte Communications. To facilitate the fulfillment of
6 his duties under this Order, the Special Master may
7 communicate ex parte to the Court to the extent that he
8 deems necessary and appropriate. In addition, the Special
9 Master may have ex parte communications with a party, but
10 such communications shall be limited to administrative
11 matters such as scheduling hearings, telephone calls or
12 briefing, if such arrangements cannot be made in a timely
13 manner by contacting the Special Master's administrative
14 assistant.

15. Compensation: The Special Master's hourly fee shall be
16 \$800.00. The Special Master shall, in his discretion,
17 allocate and assess the payment of his fees among the
18 parties, including allocation of all of his fees to one
19 party should he determine that the party has acted in bad
20 faith. The parties shall pay the Special Master's fees
21 within ten (10) calendar days of assessment, unless
22 otherwise excused by the Special Master or the Court.

23. Diligence: Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
24 53(b)(2), the Court hereby directs the Special Master to
25 proceed with all reasonable diligence in performing these
26 duties.

27. ///

28. ///

1 At their earliest discretion, all parties with pending discovery
2 disputes shall contact the Special Master to discuss the execution
3 of his duties in connection with this order.

4

5 For scheduling purposes, the parties are to call (605) 475-4350,
6 using code 215 2442 #.

7

8 IT IS SO ORDERED.

9
10 Dated: December 17, 2013

11 
12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE